

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 8053

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC

SUBJECT: EC POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETING:. NOT OF OPTIMISM ON
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

1. THE RESTRICTED POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETING AND WORKING DINNER
OF THE NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS WHICH FOLLOWED THE FORMAL EC COUNCIL
SESSION IN LUXEMBOURG ON OCTOBER 15 MADE POTENTIALLY SIGNIFI-
CANT PROGRESS, ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY REPORTS FROM MISSION
SOURCES. APPARENTLY, THE PROPOSAL FOR A POLITICAL SECRETARIAT,
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WHICH SOME MEMBER STATES SAW AS THREATENING THE

EXISTING EC INSTITUTIONS AND AS CONTRARY TO THE TREATY HAS
BEEN
PUSHED FURTHER INTO THE BACKGROUND.

2. PRESIDENTIAL COUNCILS: WE UNDERSTAND THE FRENCH SUGGEST THAT,
AFTER THE SUMMIT EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE IN PARIS LATER THIS
YEAR, FUTURE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETINGS OF THE NINE
BE HELD IN THE EC COUNCIL FRAMEWORK. THE MINISTERS APPARENTLY
AGREED THAT SUCH "PRESIDENTIAL COUNCILS" WOULD HENCEFORTH BE
THE SOLE FORUM FOR DISCUSSION, AT THIS LEVEL, OF COMMUNITY ISSUES
AMONG THE NINE. ALTHOUGH THE MODALITIES REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT,
THE PRINCIPLE OF TYING IN MEETINGS OF THE LEADERS OF THE NINE
WITH EXISTING COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS RATHER THAN TRYING TO BYPASS
THESE INSTITUTIONS WAS REPORTEDLY ACCEPTED BY ALL. (THE EC
COMMISSION WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT SUCH HIGH-LEVEL COUNCILS,
AS IT IS AT OTHER COUNCIL MEETINGS.)

3. SUMMIT: BOTH FRANCE AND BRITIAN
FAVORED A SUMMIT MEETING BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR
AND REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED TO THEIR COLLEAGUES
THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS BEHIND THEIR
POSITIONS. THE OTHER MEMBER STATES HAVE YET TO EMBRACE WHILE-
HEARTEDLY THE IDEA OF SUCH A MEETING. THEY APPEARED FAIRLY
FIRM IN THEIR DESIRE TO AVOID REPETITION OF THE UNPRODUCTIVE
MEETING IN COPENHAGEN, AND HAVE SAID THEY WILL AGREE TO A
SUMMIT ONLY IF IT IS WELL PREPARED AND IF SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT
APPEARS LIKELY ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS
ARE TO MEET, REPORTEDLY IN BRUSSELS ON OCTOBER 18, TO BEGIN
WORK ON AN AGENDA FOR A PARIS SUMMIT WHICH WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE
FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THE COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS ON
NOVEMBER 11 AND 12. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES ITEMS TO BE
CONSIDERED ARE: ANTI-INFLATION MEASURES, EMPLOYMENT (TO BE
COUPLED WITH A FURTHER DISCUSSION OF REGIONAL POLICY), THE
SCHEME FOR "PRESIDENTIAL" COUNCILS, AND ENERGY.

4. COMMENT: THE COMING SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS WILL MAKE CLEAR
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED IN LUXEMBOURG
IN THE AREA OF POLITICAL COOPERATION. FOR THE MOMENT, EVEN
USUALLY PESSIMISTIC SOURCES ARE TALKING OF PROGRESS. WHETHER
IN FACT THE CONCEPT OF "PRESIDENTIAL COUNCILS" RATHER THAN
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"INTER-GOVERNMENTAL" SUMMITS WILL TAKE HOLD--AND WHETHER AS
A PRACTICAL MATTER THIS WOULD STRENGTHEN THE ROME TREATY
INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM--REMAINS TO BE SEEN. THE MINISTERS
MET IN RESTRICTED SESSION AND FULL DETAILS ON THEIR DELIBERA-
TIONS ON THIS AND OTHER SUBJECTS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE.
END COMMENT.GREENWALD

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